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A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Department of International Justice and Goodwill
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
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THE MORAL PROBLEM IN INDO-CHINA

"The fall of Dienbienphu confronts both our nation and France with serious problems. The French will be offered an armistice which will practically turn the three Indo-Chinese states over to communism. If, war-weary as they are, they are to offer further resistance, they need our help. We, on the other hand, can not help them unless they make much more progress in granting freedom to the Indo-Chinese states than they have done thus far. It was this failure which deprived the Indo-Chinese of a real incentive for the struggle and armed the communists with the strong ideological weapon.

"The sorry conclusion of this 'heroic' struggle might prompt us to a 'reappraisal' of the whole Asian situation, and the relation of the West to Asia. In such a re-appraisal, the first thing to note is that military weapons are powerless when there is not a solid moral and political basis for a cause. Therefore, threats of 'massive retaliation' were futile in turning the tide of the battle. They merely served to increase the moral embarrassment under which we labored in Asia by the fact that the moral foundation was inadequate for this military might which we displayed.

"This does not mean that the communist cause has a moral advantage over us in Asia. It merely means that memories of ancient wrongs, of 'colonialism' and 'imperialism' make our cause seem to the Asians to be less than ideal of pure 'democracy' which we seem to advance for it. This does not change the fact that communism which exploits these resentments, would enslave the nations tomorrow, which it 'liberates' today.

"It may be that sacrifices on our part, far beyond any hitherto demanded or contemplated, will be necessary to save the situation. But sacrifices in the military struggle will be futile if we do not succeed, with the French, in liquidating the colonial past with as much speed and grace as possible." - Reinhold Niebuhr, Christianity and Crisis, May 31, 1954.

In This Issue

- Page 1 - The Moral Problem in Indo-China
- Page 2 - Church Bodies Speak on Foreign Policy Issues
- Page 3 - The National Council of Churches Speaks
- Page 3 - Local Councils of Churches Speak
- Page 4 - McCarran-Walter Act, the H-Bomb, and Guatemala
- Page 5 - News From the Churches
- Page 6 - Foreign Economic Policy Items
- Page 7 - Ohio World Affairs Project
- Page 7 - Since Our Last Newsletter
- Page 8 - Stop, Look and Listen!

DENOMINATIONAL BODIES SPEAK ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES

Presbyterian U.S.A.: The 166th General Assembly, meeting in Detroit, took these positions: (May 26)

- 1) Supported creation of an International Atomic Energy Agency under the UN to encourage "peacetime use of atomic power."
- 2) Supported renewed efforts of the UN Disarmament Commission.
- 3) Reiterated support of the UN.
- 4) Warned against expecting positive gains from UN Charter review, urging that the Charter be strengthened through "interpretation and supplementary agreements."
- 5) Warned against constitutional amendments designed to curb the President's treaty-making power.
- 6) Urged U.S. to strengthen the economics of the free world by expanding trade, "the restoration of currency convertibility, the revival of international investment, the prevention of inflation or deflation leading to unemployment, and the sharing of knowledge through programs of technical co-operation."
- 7) Urged U.S. "to support all sincere movements toward independence by colonial lands and peoples."
- 8) Urged "the State Department to exert its influence in the UN to bring Israelis and Arabs together."
- 9) Called upon "our churches to support the refugee resettlement program."
- 10) Called "for the amendment of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act so as to correct the highly objectionable features of this legislation."

(The full text of these and other social pronouncements of the General Assembly can be had free from Department of Social Education and Action, 830 Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia 7, Pa.)

American Baptist Convention: The annual convention, meeting in Minneapolis, took these positions: (May 28)

- 1) Urged the UN to continue its efforts for universal enforceable disarmament.
- 2) Demanded that the U.S. end its H-bomb tests "in areas where danger and fear of danger to other nations result."
- 3) Urged the U.S. to share non-critical atomic information with other nations and private industry.
- 4) Supported the giving of U.S. foods and fiber to needy overseas areas.
- 5) Urged full \$15,000,000 appropriation for U.S. international exchange program.
- 6) Urged U.S. to divorce Point 4 and economic aid from military policy.
- 7) Urged revision of the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952 because of its "discrimination against a large section of Asia."

Church of the Brethren: The annual conference, meeting in Ocean Grove, N.J., took these positions: (June 19)

- 1) Urged the U.S. to make surplus foods available to needy people.
- 2) Urged the U.S. to seek a cease-fire in Indo-China, and to support efforts for granting the right of self-determination for these peoples.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SPEAKS

The General Board of the National Council, meeting in Evanston, Ill., on May 19, took these actions:

- 1) Supported Point 4, urging the U.S. to "restore the original idea of technical assistance on a mutual basis and separated from defense measures." (Resolution submitted by Division of Foreign Missions.)
- 2) Issued a call to World Order Day, Sunday, October 24, 1954, urging ministers and laymen to celebrate this observance with "prayers of thanksgiving for the UN and of penitence for our failure to dedicate ourselves fully to the task of working for peace, justice and freedom in the world of nations."
- 3) Authorized presentation of the Council's viewpoint to Congressional Committees on three issues: technical assistance, the use of surplus food abroad, and support for the U.S. program of international exchange.
- 4) Deferred action on a proposed H-bomb statement until the September meeting of the Board.

LOCAL COUNCILS OF CHURCHES SPEAK

Brooklyn Division, Protestant Council of N.Y. City: In statements adopted on June 9, the Commission on International Justice and Goodwill:

- 1) Cautioned against U.S. military intervention in Indo-China; urged U.S. to "press for a full consideration" of this matter in the UN Assembly.
- 2) Urged U.S. to avoid a "unilateral decision to use atomic, hydrogen, cobalt or other weapons of mass destruction."
- 3) Urged the U.S. to continue to work through the UN for "an enforceable system of general disarmament."
- 4) Urged that U.S.-U.S.S.R. "discussions be initiated at the earliest possible date."

Louisville Area Council of Churches

- 1) The Christian World Relations Committee, June 7, reaffirmed support of the UN, but cautioned against Charter revision because "in the present climate of world opinion we feel that desirable changes in the Charter could not be made effective." The U.S. "should seek to delay (a Charter review) conference until a more favorable time."
- 2) The Executive Board of Louisville Council of Churchwomen, on June 7, made a similar statement, urging fuller utilization of the present UN charter.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH (SOUTHERN OHIO)

The World Order Committee of the Diocese of Southern Ohio is building a list of representatives in each parish with whom the Committee can keep in contact. Already 60 representatives have been selected from the 74 parishes and missions. The Committee, seeking to promote world order study groups, has sent to each parish a copy of the Cleveland Conference report. At least one-third of the rectors in the diocese preached sermons on "Christian Faith and International Responsibility" at the request of the Committee.

MCCARRAN-WALTER ACT HURTS U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, SAYS VAN KIRK

The McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 offends many "free peoples of the world" and hurts "American foreign policy," said Walter W. Van Kirk, executive director of the Department of International Justice and Goodwill, at the Church Conference of Social Work, May 11. Although the Act makes a small number of Asians eligible for U.S. citizenship, the quotas are so low that many Asians believe they are being discriminated against.

Dr. Van Kirk also said that the Act hurts NATO because of the "arbitrarily" small quotas assigned to Greece and Turkey, NATO members. Other Europeans, he said, resent certain screening provisions of the Act.

Senator Herbert H. Lehman had Dr. Van Kirk's address printed in the Congressional Record. (Reprints available free from Mr. Lehman, Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D.C.)

THE H-BOMB AND AMERICANS' DESIRE FOR EASY SOLUTIONS

The American's "sublime confidence that the millenium is achievable," is matched only by his "almost bottomless susceptibility to the nostrum peddler. There is no one like the American for falling for a gadget which purports to solve all problems," said Joseph C. Harsch, special correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, in World Alliance News-Letter, June, 1954.

The H-Bomb seemed to be the easy answer to the Eisenhower-Dulles double promise of a "more dynamic" foreign policy on one hand and tax cuts on the other, said Mr. Harsch.

But the deterrant of the H and A weapons didn't work in Indo-China, he continued. Peiping became convinced "that 'instant retaliation' was a slogan for domestic consumption, not an actual principle of Washington foreign policy."

UN VOTES CEASE-FIRE IN GUATEMALA

In an emergency Sunday (June 20) session the UN Security Council unanimously called for an end to the bloodshed in Guatemala. Since the UN has no police powers, Council resolutions are only as effective as the member states involved want them to be. The Soviet Union used its sixtieth veto to kill a Latin American move to place the Guatemalan case in the hands of the Organization of American States, an agency of 21 nations pledged to "defend their sovereignty ... and independence."

The N.Y. Times referred to the Security Council action as "a perfunctory bid for a cease-fire" and the meeting itself "a waste of time." "Had it not been for the Soviet Union's sixtieth Council veto it would have been referred to where it rightly belongs, to the Organization of American States." (June 21)

On June 18 the British Government rejected a U.S. request to search British vessels, but promised to detain ships suspected of carrying arms to Guatemala. "There is no general power of search on the high seas in peacetime," said the Foreign Office statement.

CORRECTION (THE KIND WE LIKE TO MAKE)

Let's Talk About, the monthly discussion magazine for international affairs groups, is available free (not for \$1.00, as reported in the May Newsletter) to groups with ten or more participants. For full information write: Miss Martha Curry, Foreign Affairs, 58 East 68th Street, New York 21, N. Y.

CHURCH PEACE UNION SPONSORS UN WORKSHOPS

Cooperating with the Illinois Church Council, the Church Peace Union late in April conducted a series of five UN workshops in Southern Illinois. These workshops, begun in 1951 by the CPU, bring together for afternoon and evening sessions 60 to 85 local community leaders for talks and discussions on the UN and U.S. foreign policy issues. Other workshops have been held this year in Erie and Meadville, Pa., Jamestown, N.Y., and Worcester, Mass. In cooperation with state church councils, two series are planned for the fall of 1954 -- one in Kentucky in September and one in Tennessee in November.

Founded in 1914 by Andrew Carnegie, the CPU is a tri-faith organization that works through religious groups for international peace and world order. Its program is largely educational.

Among the publications of the CPU are the World Alliance News Letter, a monthly journal of opinion with a circulation of 13,000, and The United Nations: Facts and Fallacies, of which almost a million copies have been distributed. For additional information write Dr. A. William Loos, Education Director, Church Peace Union, 170 East 64th Street, New York 21, N. Y.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Methodist Church: The Women's Division of Christian Service is planning approximately 100 UN workshops for the summer of 1954 within Schools of Missions.

Historic Peace Churches: The American Friends Service Committee, Brethren Service Committee and the Mennonite Central Committee published in the N.Y. Times on Good Friday, an advertisement urging Americans "to be done with (atomic) weapons, regardless of what others do."

International Work Camps: More than 100 young Americans will work side by side with 1,000 youths of other lands in 33 work camps in 22 nations. In the U.S. this program is run by the United Christian Youth Movement; overseas it is sponsored by the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches.

SENATE VOTES ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF TRADE ACT

It looks as though the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act will be extended until June 12, 1955. The Senate on June 24 favored a straight one-year extension by a vote of 71 to 3. The Senate rejected a substitute proposal offered by a group of Democrats, embodying President Eisenhower's original recommendations for a more liberal trade program, including a three-year extension of the Act. The vote on the original Eisenhower program: 32 Democrats and 0 Republicans for; 6 Democrats and 39 Republicans, against.

On June 11 President Eisenhower, under pressure from protectionists in his own party, backed away from his original moderate trade liberalization program and said that for this session of Congress he would settle for one year's extension. The bill now goes back to the House for minor changes.

Under the Act, to be extended, the President has the power to reduce tariffs by as much as 50% of 1945 rates. This power has been largely exhausted.

"Trade, not aid," has become a meaningless slogan, said Senator J. William Fulbright in the course of the Senate debate. One-year extension is "inadequate" and would mean only "another year of indecision and delay," he said. "I am not willing that the American public be taxed as a tribute to the power of protectionist Republicans, and to the inability of the President to lead his own party (to support what) he himself has called a 'minimum program.'"

OTHER FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY MATTERS

The "Buy American" Act

The President in March recommended liberalization of this act which requires that federal agencies buy only domestic products unless certain conditions are met. The Cleveland World Order Conference recommended that "Buy American" legislation be repealed. Representative Frank E. Smith, Mississippi, claims that this act has added 2 to 10 billion dollars to American taxes. This claim has not been refuted. One June 23 the N.Y. Times reported that the Army turned down two British bids to supply hydroelectric generators for dams in the Pacific Northwest which were \$225,000 less than Westinghouse. Westinghouse was awarded the contract under the "Buy American" Act. A bill for liberalization of the Act is in the House Committee on Public Works. No action is expected. (A 2-page summary of this problem appears in Report from the Hill, June, 1954, a legislative newsletter, League of Women Voters, 1026 17th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.)

Foreign Economic Aid

The House Foreign Affairs Committee on June 23 cut only \$7,000,000 from the Administration's \$3,500,000,000 Foreign Aid request. President Eisenhower said the aid program was "one of our most effective, most practical, least costly methods of achieving our international objectives in this age of peril." A much larger cut had been threatened.

OHIO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES TO HOLD STATE-WIDE WORLD AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Plans have been launched in Ohio for an intensive state-wide project to stimulate local interest in world affairs and to train local church leaders for more effective educational and action programs. Leaders of the Ohio Council of Churches, meeting in Columbus, drew up plans for a series of training conferences next fall to be organized on the Congressional District level. The program is an outgrowth of plans charted last October at the Fourth National Conference on the Churches and World Order. The first state-wide program of its kind since the Conference; the project is being organized under the leadership of Dr. W. Henry Shillington, Executive Secretary of the Ohio Council of Churches.

The Ohio project is being planned in cooperation with the Department of International Justice and Goodwill and with the full support of national denominational secretaries of social education and action, together with their counterparts in the state. Letters describing the Ohio plans have been sent by the Department to the Secretaries of the State Councils of Churches in 41 other states for their consideration. Similar projects are being studied in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin, Oregon and Rhode Island.

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER

Indo-China: The U.S.S.R. on June 18 vetoed in the UN Security Council Thailand's resolution that a peace observation team be sent to Thailand. The real purpose of the resolution was to provide UN observers for the Indo-China conflict.

Disarmament: "The five-nation subcommittee of the UN Disarmament Commission (meeting in London) has failed to find a solution to the problem of disarmament." (N.Y. Times, June 23)

Educational Exchange: The Senate Appropriations Committee voted for the full budget request of \$15,000,000 for the International Exchange Activities Program. Many church people wrote members of the Committee urging them to "restore" the \$6,000,000 cut in this program voted by the House. After the Senate acts on this measure the Senate and House bills will go to conference for reconciliation.

Refugees: Since the Refugee Relief Act was passed in August, 1953, "not more than a score," (as of early June) of refugees have actually been admitted to the U.S., said Roland Elliott, immigration service director of Church World Service. "I am hopeful," he said, that the government will speed admissions soon.

Foreign Students in U.S.: "A record of 35,000 students from all the free nations are attending 1,500 American colleges and universities. The U.S. has become the world's mecca of learning for foreign students." -- Benjamin Fine, N.Y. Times, June 7, 1954.

Segregation in Public Schools: The Supreme Court decision outlawing racial segregation in public schools has been widely hailed by the free press in Europe and Asia as a significant and positive milestone.

UN Refugee Emergency Fund: The U.S. has agreed to give a substantial contribution, perhaps \$500,000.

BASIC PAMPHLET LIBRARY (A READING LIST)

This list of 13 titles is available free from Department of International Justice and Goodwill, 297 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y. Includes basic introductions to U.S. foreign policy and world affairs, UN, economic policy, immigration and world Communism.

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN!

** Foreign Trade: It's Good Business, a black and white filmstrip, 35 mm, 57 frames, about 15 minutes. \$3.50, Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 E. 38th St., New York 16, N. Y.

** Loyalty and Freedom, Rhoda E. McCulloch, 48 pages, 35¢. Available for 35¢ from National Council of Churches, 120 E. 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y. This pamphlet, written for the United Church Women deals with present threats to freedom in the U.S. and their effect on domestic and foreign policy. Includes discussion questions, action suggestions and recommended reading. Includes church pronouncements on the subject.

** Needed: Point I Plus a Renewed Point IV, Barbara Ward, N.Y. Times Magazine, April 11. She urges U.S. and the West to project plans for disarmament and technical assistance to curb Russia's booming "peace offensive".

** "I Can Hear It Now..." Columbia LP Recordings, narrated by Edward R. Morrow. The first record (1933-1945) is a brilliant review of national and world history, mainly in the voices of the people who made it. This and other recordings in the series give perspective to today's events.

** A Door to the Present, James D. Calderwood and Laurence de Rycke, May, 1954, 39 pages, 35¢, International Development Placement Asso., 345 E. 46th St., New York 17, N. Y. A brief but comprehensive discussion of current programs and problems of technical assistance in less-developed areas by two economists. May be the best pamphlet on the subject. Simply written. Lists recommended reading.

** U.S. Foreign Policy: Today's Crisis and Beyond, May, 1954, 22 pages. This up-to-the-minute discussion guide prepared by Newsweek deals with the "new look", the Indo-China crisis, and the H-bomb. Most helpful guide for local study groups. Simply written. Lists recommended reading.

** UN Radio: Transcriptions and Recordings: Local groups are encouraged by Miss Dorothy Lewis, UN Dept. of Public Information, to borrow UN recordings from their local radio stations for use at meetings. These recordings are sent to hundreds of radio stations. Check to see if your local station has transcriptions you want to borrow.

This Newsletter is published approximately ten times a year, September through June, by the Department of International Justice and Goodwill: Mrs. Douglas Horton, Chairman; Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, Executive Director. The Newsletter is edited by Ernest W. Lefever, Associate Executive Director.